



WESTERN CAPE MAZDA MX-5 CLUB

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: 2014-09-28.

I thrive on compliments – and I got plenty after Sunday's run to the Old Cape Farmhouse! So why do I feel a little *bek-af* on this Monday? Simple: because those accolades actually belong to Duncan Mackintosh and George Slade: in fact, their suggestion for a venue was more popular than seemed at first – but more about that later.

Joining us on an overcast day were yours truly and She; with guests (Mom) Naomi Koch and (Sister) Helene Lehmann; Allan Sheard *sans* Alison (*if she could only see him cuddling up to..*); Brian and Avril Roy; Charmaine Jackson and friend John Beekman; Chris and Daphne Foster; Deon Labuschagne (*another lone joller: Gordon was tied up with family business*); George and AnnaMarie Slade (*travelling in his 19-voertsêk MG*) with their daughter and her beau, JP (*following in George's MX-5!*); Gerald and Jocelyn Poswell (*back from Turkey*); Derrill and Barbara Papendorf (*back from visiting the kids in the US of A*); Rod Manson and Friend Petra; Soné Mouton and Paul Burger and Richard and Hazel Carolin.

Apologies were received from Alex and Maureen Paterson; André and Nerine Davis (*in Athens, of all places!*); Brian Lewer; Warren and Colette Garner; David and Julie Dyer; Liz Morgan; Luke and Marj van Wyk; Peter and Carla Truter; Steve and Mari Ashton; Julian and Jenny Seymour; Duncan and Rowena Mackintosh; Diane Novitzkas and David and Karin Wantling (*thinking of you, David – get well soon!*).



Top: Views forever!

Right: Silvermine Entrance.

From here, we travelled in convoy to our destination, the Farmhouse at (or near to) Scarborough. And yes, it's a drive to be enjoyed *only* in an open-topped car or on a bike: these days, it's the open-topped car for me *provided* that car is my MX-5!

The run to The Old Cape Farmhouse took us over Ou Kaapse Weg: we met at the Silvermine parking spot at the very top. No matter how many times one sees the Peninsula from this vantage point, it still amazes! It was an unseasonably cold-ish and overcast day – fortunately so, quipped one wag, otherwise George's MG would probably have seized up from overheating.....



2.



The Farmhouse, ably run by Rose Kopfer, proved to be popular among biking and other motoring clubs. At first glance, it appears fairly non-descript but we found everything to be to our satisfaction: good service with good, well-presented food. The atmosphere is relaxed and the cherry on top is of course the drive to get there.

Left top: *The Farmhouse.*

Left below: *Derrill Papendorf, Rod Manson and others.*



In previous reports I asked Members for suggestions as to a suitable venue and date for our AGM in December. Discussing this with Members on Sunday, it soon emerged that the most preferred date is Sunday the 21st December. And after enjoying the food, service and ambience of the Farmhouse, it was a no-brainer: some-one suggested “this place” and the suggestion was carried unanimously!

So – here goes: please read the following in your most official (officious?) tone of voice:

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Members are hereby formally notified that this Club’s AGM will be held at the Old Cape Farmhouse Restaurant, situated on route M66, near Scarborough. Full particulars (with directions) of the AGM , agenda, etc, will follow later but Members are requested to please diarize the date. We want YOU there!

Cost: in the past, the Club carried the cost of the AGM for Members with guests required to pay. Although we lost Mazda’s support this year, we will endeavor to do the same at this AGM: what this actually means is that next time you see George Slade, please complement our Treasurer on well, something. Anything. Even the MG.....

General:

1: Apparel

We now have two quotes for embroidery work. We are awaiting a third which should give us a good spread from which to choose. Details will be sent to Members as soon as they are finalized. Thanks to everybody who gave input/suggestions regarding this!

3.

2: Rendezvous

As mentioned, Sunday was quite possibly the last time that we mustered at Limnos. Some places have been suggested for the Northerners to meet and full details will follow soon.

Right: Paul Burger, Soné Mouton, Allan Sheard.

3: Motto

There is no clear “winner” – so we’ll simply use all of them from time to time. Watch out on our website (www.mx5wc.co.za) for this. Thanks to everybody who submitted suggestions!



4: Mazda and their engines

According to a newspaper report, Mazda are “refusing” to go the turbo route. We all know the new trend: take a small motor, then turbo the you-know-what out of it. This way, one gets the power of a larger motor but (theoretically!) the fuel consumption of the smaller motor. Also, because this turbo-charged motor now emits less green-house gasses, it is (supposedly) friendlier to the Earth.

I suspect that we are being hoodwinked! That turbocharger not only adds gazillions to the cost of the car, but I suspect that when the carbons used in manufacturing the thing are totted up, we will all be horribly surprised to find that this thing is not as Earth-friendly as we are supposed to believe. Compare, for instance, the following: a scientific study, done in the US, proved that as they stand on the showroom floor, a Hummer has already caused significantly **less** damage to the Earth than a Prius. And from there on, the Prius apparently loses all the way up to where one eventually has to address the problem of getting rid of the batteries after only a few short years.

If it’s power that you want, simply look at Honda’s 2 litre 4 cylinder naturally aspirated motor delivering some 170+kW; or, **even better**, “our own” Mazda Rotary motor: the same kind of power out of a displacement of only some 1300cc’s. And save the Earth from all those carbons used in manufacturing an expensive part that adds huge costs to not only the purchase price of a car but also adds hugely to the running costs!

If Mazda’s stance regarding turbo motors was indeed correctly reported, I congratulate them on a brave decision. And I am convinced that they will, in the fullness of time, be proven right.

Finally: have you diarised the date for the AGM? Good – just checking!

Till next time!

Bernie Koch | Chairman
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